

## Message Text

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R 141320Z JUN 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ZA US

SUBJECT: CRITICISM OF U.S. IN ZAMBIAN PRESS

REFS: A) LUSAKA 1009; B) STATE 134465

1. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MWALE JUNE 10 ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS RAISED QUESTION OF RECENT HARSH CRITICISM OF U.S. IN ZAMBIAN PRESS, ESPECIALLY TIMES OF ZAMBIA, AND UNDERLINED DAMAGE SUCH CRITICISM COULD DO TO EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS.

2. DAVIS NOTED THAT CRITICISM OF U.S. IN ZAMBIAN PRESS, INCLUDING ATTACKS ON HIGH PERSONS IN ADMINISTRATION, HAD INTENSIFIED FROM TIME OF KAUNDA'S VISIT, DESPITE WARM WELCOME WHICH HE RECEIVED HERE. DAVIS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY JUNE 1 COLUMN IN TIMES CONTAINING PERSONAL ATTACK ON PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY. HE ADDED THAT WHILE WE DID NOT HOLD KAUNDA PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ARTICLES, FACT THAT EDITOR IS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA INEVITABLY RAISED QUESTION AS TO HOW MUCH PAPER REFLECTED VIEWS OF GRZ.

3. DAVIS SAID THAT HE NOT ONLY WISHED TO EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN OF USG RE THESE SCURRILOUS ATTACKS, BUT ALSO SINCE  
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AMBASSADOR HAD ALWAYS WORKED DILIGENTLY FOR BETTER ZAMBIAN  
  
U.S. RELATIONS, TO HAVE HIS VIEWS ON HOW THIS UNHAPPY

SITUATION MIGHT BEST BE HANDLED AND HOPEFULLY CORRECTED. HE ADDED THAT IF ARTICLES ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF GRZ THINKING, SUCH ATTACKS CAN ONLY HARM U.S.-ZAMBIAN RELATIONS AT A TIME WHEN BOTH SIDES ARE SEEKING FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS.

4. MWALE SAID HE COULD WELL APPRECIATE USG CONCERN OVER UNFAIR PRESS ATTACKS, SINCE HE SHARED OUR CONCERN . HE WAS CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT ARTICLES DID NOT REFLECT PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S PERSONAL VIEWS.

5. BRIEFLY TRACING HISTORY OF PRESS IN ZAMBIA, MWALE SAID THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN PRESS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. PRESS WAS OWNED ENTIRELY BY FOREIGN INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY BRITISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN. SITUATION GOT COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE. PRESS WAS PRINTING ANYTHING IT WANTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO HOW DAMAGING OR EMBARRASSING IT MIGHT BE TO GRZ. IN FACT, PRESS WAS PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL IN FIELD OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

6. MWALE ASSERTED THAT GRZ FAVORED FREEDOM OF PRESS, BUT NOT AN IRRESPONSIBLE PRESS RUN BY OUTSIDERS. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT PRESIDENT DECIDED TO APPOINT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF TWO MAJOR PAPERS AND GRZ TOOK OVER TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS. STILL THERE ARE SOME EXPATRIATES AS WELL AS DISSATISFIED ZAMBIANS WHO REMAIN ON STAFFS OF PAPERS. THERE IS UNFORTUNATELY EVERY POSSIBILITY IN LOOSE CONTROL WHICH EXISTS WITHIN ORGANIZATION OF PAPERS FOR ONE OR TWO PERSONS TO VENT THEIR INDIVIDUAL PREJUDICES IN PRINT FROM TIME TO TIME WITHOUT BEING CHECKED. ONLY A WEEK AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH TIMES AND MAIL CASTIGATED ZAMBIAN LEADERSHIP FOR SOME INTERNAL MATTERS. COLUMNS SUCH AS JUNE 1 TIMES ARTICLE ARE WORK OF TROUBLEMAKERS AND DEFINITELY DO NOT REPRESENT PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S POLICY, MWALE STATED.

7. MWALE, WHO IS RETURNING TO LUSAKA FOR CONSULTATIONS  
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IN LAST WEEK OF JUNE, SAID HE WOULD TAKE UP QUESTION OF TREATMENT OF U.S. IN ZAMBIAN PRESS WITH BOTH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF TIMES. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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